TENNESSEE OSHA

TOGETHER WITH TOSHA

Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development *Division of Occupational Safety and Health* *Fall 2001*

OSHA Releases New Regulations; Tennessee Will Follow

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule on recordkeeping will go into effect as scheduled on January 1, 2002. The new rule will be effective in Tennessee on that same date. The final recordkeeping rule is the culmination of an effort that began in the 1980s to improve how the government tracks occupational injuries and illnesses. The rule increases employee involvement, creates simpler forms, and gives employers more flexibility to use computers to meet OSHA regulatory requirements.

OSHA will seek comment on two proposed modifications to the rule's recordkeeping requirements. First, the criteria for recording work-related hearing loss will not be implemented for one year pending further investigation into the level of hearing loss that should be recorded as a "significant" health condition. Second, OSHA will delay for one year the recordkeeping rule's definition of "musculoskeletal disorder" (MSD) and the requirement that employers check the MSD column on the OSHA log.

The new rule will update three recordkeeping forms: (1) the OSHA 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) will be simplified and printed on smaller legal sized paper; (2) OSHA Form 301 (Injury and Illness Incident Report) will include more data on how the injury or illness occurred; and (3) OSHA Form 300A (Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses) will be a separate form updated to make it easier to calculate incidence rates.

Among other changes are the elimination of different criteria for recording work-related injuries and work-related illnesses—one set of criteria will be used for both; new definitions will be used for medical treatment, first aid, and restricted work to simplify recording decisions; all needlestick and sharps injuries involving contamination with blood and body fluids will be recordable.

TOSHA will be offering seminars on the new recordkeeping rules and how to correctly record workplace injuries and illnesses on the OSHA 300 Log as part of our Fall 2001 seminar schedule. Also, explanations, help, and documents on the new requirements may be found at the OSHA Web site at www.osha.gov.

In addition, on January 18, 2002, the new standard on steel erection will go into effect in federal jurisdictions and in Tennessee. The standard enhances protections provided to ironworkers by addressing the hazards that have been identified as the major causes of injuries and fatalities in the steel erection industry. These are hazards associated with working under loads; hoisting, landing and placing decking; column stability; double connections; landing and placing steel joints; and falls to lower levels.

OSHA, and TOSHA, will not apply the component requirements of the new standard to the following two situations: (1) to components used in steel erection projects where the building permit was obtained before the final rules were published (January 18, 2001); and (2) to components used in steel erection projects in which the steel erection work was begun before September 16, 2001. Additional information can be found at OSHA's Web site.

Henshaw Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA

Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced on August 6, 2001, that the United States Senate has confirmed John Henshaw as the new Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health. "American workers win with John Henshaw," Chao said. "John is the perfect person to lead an effort to create the safest and healthiest environment for American workers."

Mr. Henshaw is a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association and the American Society of Safety Engineers and was president of the American Industrial Hygiene Association from 1990 to 1991. He graduated from Appalachian State University and received his M.P.H. from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1974. Mr. Henshaw is from St. Louis.

Did You Know That . . . . . .

There were 154 occupational fatalities in Tennessee during 1999. Transportation incidents led all other events of work-related deaths, accounting for 76 fatal occupational injuries. Contact with objects and equipment resulted in 27 deaths, and assaults and violent acts accounted for 19.

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ASK TOSHA

What must be included in forklift training?

The following outline is intended as a resource in implementing a powered industrial truck (PIT) operator training program. It is not a substitute for any standards issued by TOSHA.

1. Introduction
   - a. Overview of the program
   - b. Goal of the program: to provide a training program based on the trainee's prior knowledge, the types of vehicles used in the workplace, and the hazards of the workplace.
   - c. Course will utilize video, group discussion, and hands-on practice. Each operator must obtain the knowledge and skills needed to do the job correctly and safely.

2. Types, Features, and Physics
   - a. Familiarize each operator with the basic types and functions of PITs
   - b. Develop an understanding of the information shown on a data plate.
   - c. Understand the forces that cause tip-overs and the truck design considerations and safety ratings that help prevent them, including the "stability triangle."

3. Inspecting the Vehicle
   - a. Understand the purpose and importance of pre-operational checkouts.
   - b. Provide a basic understanding of areas covered during a pre-operational checkout.
   - c. Familiarize each operator with a checklist for pre-operational checkouts and what to do if a problem is discovered.

4. Movement
   - a. Understand the elements of safe movement of a PIT.
   - b. Understand the differences between an automobile and a PIT.
   - c. Recognize the safety hazards associated with operating a PIT.

5. Load Handling
   - a. Understand the elements of load lifting safety.
   - b. Understand the safe operating procedures for raising and lowering loads in aisles.

6. LPG for Lift Trucks
   - a. Discuss LPG and its properties.
   - b. Understand the elements and procedures of safely refueling internal combustion vehicles.
   - c. Describe tank components: service valve, surge valve, relief valve, etc.
   - d. Discuss related safety issues.

7. Battery and Charging
   - a. Understand the elements and procedures of safely changing and charging batteries.
   - b. Discuss filling procedures and maintenance.
   - c. Discuss related safety issues.

8. Safety Concerns
   - a. Review/reinforce potential of serious injury.
   - b. Review/reinforce safety procedures in your facility.

9. Specific Truck and Workplace Training/Hands-On
   - a. Review feature of each specific powered industrial truck (PIT) to be operated.
   - b. Review operating procedures of specific PITs to be operated.
   - c. Review safety concerns of specific PITs to be operated.
   - d. Review workplace conditions and safety concerns of areas where PITs will be operated.
   - e. Learn/practice actual operation of specific PITs to be operated and specific workplace conditions where PITs will be operated.
   - f. Demonstrate proficiency specific to the trainee's position and workplace conditions.

10. Certification of Completion of the Course

Fall 2001 Seminar Schedule Released

The TOSHA Training and Education Section has safety and health seminars slated to be held around the state in the fall of 2001. Topics of general interest include "Maintenance Related TOSHA Compliance," "Basic Safety," "10-Hour General Industry Compliance Course," and "What To Expect When TOSHA Inspects." These are full-day seminars conducted by TOSHA trainers and co-sponsored by the University of Tennessee or the Tennessee Association of Business (TAB). TOSHA consultants and TAB will also offer seminars on how to implement an effective safety committee in your workplace.

To help employers become fully informed about the newest regulations and requirements, TOSHA will offer seminars on sharps injury prevention (1/2 day) and the new recordkeeping requirements (1/2 day). Employers are currently expected to be fully compliant with the changes to the bloodborne pathogen standard requiring sharps injury prevention. The new recordkeeping regulation, including the use of the OSHA 300 log, will become effective in Tennessee on January 1, 2002.

For the first time, TOSHA will also partner with The Don Sundquist Center of Advanced Technologies at Motlow State Community College, Fayetteville campus, to offer the 10-Hour General Industry Compliance Course and the 30-Hour General Industry Compliance Course.

For a complete schedule of TOSHA training seminars for September through December, 2001, call 615-253-4006, or visit our web site at www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd.

We're from the Government and We're Here to Help You

Moving parts have the potential for causing severe workplace injuries. It's a sad day when any worker suffers a crushed finger or hand, an amputation, burn, or blindness because a machine is not properly guarded. These safeguards are essential for protecting workers from these needless and preventable injuries. OSHA has recently updated its Technical Links Page on Machine Guarding. The training resources section links you to a publication that includes instruction guides, checklists, and other information that is provided to assist in identifying and eliminating hazards associated with mechanical power presses. Just go to: http://www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/machineguarding/index.html and develop a good guarding program for your machines.

Remember that lockout/tagout (1910.147), power presses (1910.217), power transmission (1910.219), and machine guarding (1910.212) are the standards that are most cited where machine guarding violations exist. You'll feel great when you make sure that at the end of the day, you've sent your employees home in the same condition that they came to work.

TOSHA TIPS

Condition #1: An open-sided floor or platform four feet or more above the adjacent floor or ground level was not guarded by a standard railing (or equivalent).

Potential Effects: Sprains, strains, contusions, and fractures from falls.

Citation: 1910.23(c)(1) Protection for Open Sided Floors

Recommended Action: Install a standard railing. A standard railing consists of a top rail, intermediate rail, and posts and has a vertical height of 42 inches from the upper surface of the top rail to the floor. The completed structure shall be capable of withstanding a load of at least 200 pounds applied in any direction at any point on the top rail.

Alternatively, use of, and employee access to, the platform could be eliminated.

Condition #2: An open-sided floor or platform four feet or more above the adjacent floor or ground level not guarded by toeboards, where, beneath the open sides:

(i) persons could pass
(ii) there was moving machinery
(iii) there was equipment with which falling materials could create a hazard.

Potential Effects: Head and other injuries, especially bruises, gashes, and punctures, from falling tools or materials.

Recommended Action: Install toeboards. A standard toeboard measures four inches vertically from its top edge to the floor (or other surface) it guards, which may include no more than 1/4" clearance above floor level. It must be securely fastened in place. It may be made of any substantial material either solid or with openings not over one inch in greatest dimension.

Where material is piled to such height that a standard toeboard does not provide protection, 29 CFR 1910.23(e)(4) requires that paneling be provided from the floor to the intermediate or top rail of the standard railing.

Alternatively, use of, and employee access to, the platform could be eliminated.

Newsletter Available On-Line

You may now access the latest edition of "Together with TOSHA" on the TOSHA web site at www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd. Click on *Safety in the Workplace, TOSHA, TOSHA Newsletter*, then choose the edition you wish to view. The newsletters are in a pdf format so you will need the free Acrobat Reader for access. Each successive edition will be added to the site beginning with the spring of 2001 newsletter. Paper copies will continue to be mailed as usual to those on the mailing list.

Learn and Live

On-Site Consultative Services Problem Solver

A Consultation visit was conducted at a manufacturing facility where, in one area of the plant, a table saw was used to cut wallboard and wood paneling. Two employees worked at the site. One employee fed the product into the saw, and the off-bearer removed the cut sheets.

Air sampling revealed both employees to be overexposed to dust. No local exhaust ventilation was used. The employees wore dust masks that were not approved by NIOSH. The masks were stored at the saw and had dust contamination inside the facepiece.

Also, noise exposures were 94 dBA (decibels) to the employee who worked as the feeder and 92 dBA to the off-bearer. No hearing protection was worn, and the employees were not in an effective hearing conservation program.

The consultant made the following recommendations:

1). That the wallboard be scored and cut with a safety knife instead of using the saw
2). That the employees be placed in a hearing conservation program

Discontinuing use of the table saw reduced the dust exposures to both employees to within acceptable limits, without requiring the installation of expensive ventilation equipment. Noise exposures were reduced to below 90 dBA and therefore engineering controls were not required. To further protect their hearing, employees were placed in a hearing conservation program, and hearing protection was provided.

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